

Blackshirts key NU's 14-0 win Saturday

By Randy York
Sports Editor

One sustained scoring drive seemingly is not going to topple many of Nebraska's remaining football foes, but if the Husker defensive Black Shirts continue their pace, it might.

Hopefully, the Husker defenders will not have to bail NU's offense out of four lost fumbles and a pass interception each game.

The Huskers, nevertheless, were impressive in Saturday's 14-0 shutout over winless Texas A & M. Nebraska, however, failed to score in the last half while attempting to establish some sort of a running game.

And, although NU's backs were somewhat overshadowed by a whisking rabbit's field maneuvers just before halftime, Nebraska coach Bob Devaney did feel the club improved — "onically in the second half.

Devaney said the improvement was not accountable on the scoreboard. "Sooner or later we've got to move the ball on the ground," Devaney said. "We tried to do it in the second half, and I think we can do it."

The remark hinted at experimentation at the expense of the smaller, but comparably-quick Aggies. The Husker defensive unit had to repel four A & M drives inside the NU 10-yard line. But the fact remains: Nebraska did not allow a point.

The Huskers had a weakness — 49 first-half rushing yards. Devaney decided it needed work. So, to the disgruntlement of many Husker fans,

the second half saw mostly Jeff Kinney methodically gaining short yardage instead of the potential long passing threat of quarterback Jerry Tagge to end Jim McFarland.

But apparently the 66,331 stadium fans and a regional television audience put up with the dull second half windup, frequently interrupted by time-outs for TV commercials. The fans remained optimistic with the experiment.

Devaney saw results in 108 second-half rushing yards. The Huskers apparently had little trouble passing. Soph signal-caller Van Brownson, who twisted a knee midway in the first period, and Tagge combined for 17 of 24 tosses for 209 yards.

Meanwhile, Kinney and his backfield mates had to struggle for their 157 ground yards. Kinney was the Steve Owens-type workhorse with 78 yards in 24 attempts, including a 3-yard first-quarter touchdown, his second of the season. Tagge's 1-yard stab just before half accounted for the other Husker touchdown.

Kinney averaged only 3.2 yards per carry, but Devaney praised his efforts.

"There was quite an improvement in Kinney as the game went along," he said. "All our I-backs are inexperienced. Jeff began to find out where to go."

Devaney said Kinney would be the starting tailback against Minnesota at Minneapolis Saturday. Frank Vactor, who started both Husker games thus

far, sustained a knee injury early against the Aggies and was sidelined indefinitely.

Devaney cited the combined efforts of Tagge and Brownson. He added that Brownson could have come back into the game after injuring his knee. "I wasn't displeased with him (Brownson), but Tagge also ran the team well."

Devaney, however, credited the defensive outfit with the win. "That's the first time Texas A & M has been shut out in three years. We got good pressure on their passer from our ends, linebackers and middle guards.

Aggie tailback Larry Stegent, the most effective runner against the Black Shirts with 23 yards in 12 carries, was in full uniform for the first time in a year. The twice all-Southwestern Conference choice, was sidelined last spring with a shoulder separation and this fall with a pulled hamstring. He missed the Aggies opening 35-6 loss to LSU.

Did he feel any pain after only one practice this year?

"Yeah," he said, "14 to 0." He said he knew Thursday afternoon that he could play.

"I ran a lot Thursday, but no contact work," he said. "It (the injured hamstring muscle) felt all right. I knew I could play, but I didn't have my usual quickness. I missed a couple of holes at first, but it started to get better."

Senior Rocky Self, the Aggies' relief quarterback who played the most in his college career Saturday, didn't exactly over-credit the Husker defense. "They're plenty tough," he said, "but we didn't run as well as we should have. The blocking was poor at first."

A & M coach Gene Stallings said much of the Aggie inefficiency at first was an outgrowth of the inexperience problem.

"I guess they just sort of ran over us at first," he said, "but we made some good second-half adjustments. When you're playing a bunch of kids that haven't played much, you can expect a lot of mistakes."

"All I know," he added, "was that we had the ball down there inside the 10 four times and didn't get a score out of it. We've either got an awfully poor offense, or they've got an awfully good defense."

Saturday's statistics show stars

TEXAS A&M			Punting			Tagge		
Rushing	No.	Yds.	No.	Yds.	Avg.	No.	Yds.	Avg.
Stegent	12	23	Sheffield	9	352	39.2	13	225
Black	5	4	Punt Returns	No.	Yds.	Passing	No.	Yds.
Sheffield	6	-5	Elmendorf	2	82	Brownson	6	55
Burks	1	-1	Kickoff Returns	No.	Yds.	Tagge	18	154
Self	14	12	Stegent	2	37	McFarland	7	117
Passing			Pass Interceptions			Frost		
Sheffield	3	0	Adami	1	12	Kinney	4	41
Self	31	18	NEBRASKA			Schneis	1	9
Pass Receiving			Rushing			Vactor		
Thomas	No.	Yds.	Kinney	No.	Yds.	Patrick	No.	Yds.
Harris	7	89	Prost	7	78	Schneis	5	37
Polesak	1	17	Vactor	4	12	Inglis	3	22
Stegent	5	22	Green	6	12	Larson	No.	Yds.
Adams	1	5	Schliebs	3	5	Anderson	1	18
Black	1	0	Brownson	4	5	Roeves	1	0
						Stephenson	1	29

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